

Treasury Department,

BUREAU OF THE MINT,

Washington, D. C., December 2, 1885.

Sir:

Yours of the 1st instant has been received, in reply to my inquiries as to your requirement of bonds of all employes of the Mint, irrespective of the nature of their work or degree of responsibility.

It appears from your reply and from a reference to the letter of October 17th, from this Bureau, which I had not previously seen, (signed by the Acting Director,) that you considered this letter to be sufficient warrant for such a requirement on your part.

However it may be as to the

limits of the expression of that letter on the subject, I have to refer you to Section 3551 of the Revised Statutes for the proper limitation as to the exaction of bonds from persons employed in the Mint.

This Section does not in my opinion admit of such a construction as to bring within its provisions the requirement of bonds at the hands of operatives other than assistants and clerks.

I am aware of no necessity for exceeding the limits of the law in this matter, and regret exceedingly that the authority of the Director of the Mint should have been cited for what, in many

Cases, may prove an onerous requirement.

Without reference to whatever authority is implied by the letter of October 17th, you will please discontinue the general requirement of bonds, personal or otherwise, as by authority of this Bureau, exercising your own discretion as to what steps may be taken with the bonds already executed by operatives other than assistants and clerks. There may be special cases of extra confidence reposed in operatives, where the requirement of a personal bond to the immediately responsible officer would be reasonable and proper. Such cases

would be within your discretion.

Very respectfully,

Jas. A. Winball
Director

Hon. Danl. R. Fox,

Superintendent Mint,

Philadelphia.

Treasury Department,
Bureau of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.,
December 2, 1885

Sir:

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It appears from your reply and from a reference to the letter of October 17th, from this Bureau, which I had not previously seen, (signed by the Acting Director), that you considered this letter to be sufficient warrant for such a requirement on your part.

However it may be as to the limits of the expression of that letter on the subject, I have to refer you to Section 3501 of the Revised Statutes for the proper limitation as to the exaction of bonds from persons employed in the Mint. This Section does not in my opinion admit of such a construction as to bring within its provisions the requirement of bonds at the hands of operatives other than assistants and clerks.

I am aware of no necessity for exceeding the limits of the law in this matter, and request exceedingly that the authority of the Director of the Mint should have been cited for what, in many cases, may prove an onerous requirement.

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Jas. P. Kimball
Director

Hon. Danl. M. Fox,
Superintendent Mint,
Philadelphia.